

### **Abstract**

The topical anesthetic gel formulation of the present invention preferably includes lidocaine, USP as the active anesthetic ingredient with a skin penetration enhancer and a gelling agent. This invention deals with problems commonly associated with topical application of local anesthetics such as: slow onset of action; need for occlusion; messiness of creams, ointments or gels; and rapid loss of effect due to rapid systemic dispersion. The invention permits enhanced penetration of the anesthetic and thereby allows for a lesser total dosage of pharmaceutically active ingredient. The use of a lesser total dosage also decreases systemic toxicity.